

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 8, 2016

REGULAR MEETING

7:00pm

Mayor Pardue and all Council Members were present except for Council Member Moore.

Mayor Pardue called the meeting to order and led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by Nakylia Jackson, Elise Sampson, Bryson Sampson and Kiera Sampson.

ACTION ITEMS:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member Wolfe made the motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting January 11, 2016 and Council Member Green seconded the motion, passed unanimous 4-0.

PUBLIC FORUM

Barbara Gilpin gave the Board an update on the library. We have four fund raising events currently going on and planned.

- Love your library \$1.00 tags
- Donations from the community
- Used book table sales
- Indoor flea market the last weekend in February (17 already signed up to sell)
- Silent auction May 7, 2016

Bridgette Henderson addressed the Board asking questions concerning the Historical Society organization.

- I would like an accounting of the funds the Town of Jonesville gave to the Historical Society for three years totaling \$20,250.00. Where was that money spent?
- Is the Historical Society owned by Yadkin Valley Museum an IRS 501C3 non-profit corporation and if so, I want to see its documentation and the EIN number.
- Did the Board know when they gave the Historical Society the funds whether it was a non-profit organization or not?
- I want to know the accounting that the Historical Society has received from the Jonesville Tourism Authority and where that money was spent.

- Will Council Member Wolfe be soliciting funds now that she is on the Board especially tax dollars?
- I will be asking for an accounting of funds given to Council Member Wolfe as a Board Member for the Town of Jonesville.
- I understand the funds that were given to the Historical Society from the Town of Jonesville is supporting Mineral Springs Park, which is a private park. Why? The town has its own park to support.
- One more thing, if you the Board are not planning to help the library, please tell them tonight.

PRESENTATION – YADKIN HOSPICE HOME

Ms. Marty Driver with Mountain Valley Hospice and Palliative Care presented information about the efforts to build a hospice home in Yadkin County.

- Mountain Valley Hospice purchased land in Yadkinville on the SECU Campus on North Lee Avenue
- Launched a community wide capital campaign to raise funds to build Yadkin County's first and only Hospice Home
- Received a \$1 million challenge grant from State Employees Credit Union Foundation
- Groundbreaking with Fall 2016 targeted completion date
- \$3,500,000 projected funding

With the new budget year approaching, we would like you to consider a 5 year pledge toward this amazing facility in our community.

PROPOSAL FOR MOLD INSPECTION SERVICES – JONESVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDING

Yadkin County Building Inspector Gary Hayes came to look at the former library building at the request of the Town. Mr. Hayes issued a written summary of what he saw in and around the building. At the request of the library study committee we asked Mr. Hayes about the possibility of having an assessment of the air quality of the building due to concerns raised that the environment inside the building is hazardous to any workers and/or patrons inside.

Mr. Hayes responded that the County Building Inspections Department does not perform this type of assessment, but did provide the name of an independent consultant that does. Town staff contacted Progress Environmental Inc. to request a cost to conduct the assessment. The proposal from Progressive Environmental calls for a fee of \$1,500.

Council Member Green made the motion to not approve the air assessment proposal from Progress Environmental on the library and added not to spend any more money on the library

building and Council Member Darnell seconded the motion, passed 3-1 with Council Member Wolfe voting for the assessment.

DISCUSSION OF DOG ANTI-TETHERING ORDINANCE

At last month's meeting a citizen requested that the Town consider adopting an anti-tethering ordinance. Town staff has contacted several neighboring towns and have not found any of those to prohibit the use of tethers. However, we did find two examples (Forsyth County and the City of Kannapolis) that restrict the use of tethers to various degrees.

Town staff stands ready to provide any additional information that may be necessary or to draft an amendment to our animal ordinance if the Council so directs.

Tabled discussion and no action taken.

INOPERABLE FIRE HYDRANTS

There are currently a number of non operable fire hydrants located within the Town's water system. Town staff has attempted to prioritize and repair as many as possible, however progress has been somewhat slow. Council member Wolfe requested that this issue be discussed to see if there is some way to speed up the repair process.

Council Member Wolfe addressed the list of inoperable fire hydrants that are on numerous streets throughout the town. Council Member Wolfe says maintaining functional fire hydrants is part of our fire code rating which determines individual household fire rates. She hopes the next inspection is completed quickly with reports to the town that are listed street by street. Our citizens are upset about these inoperable hydrants and we need to have all repairs completed as quick as possible.

Utility Director, Tim Collins addressed the Board: Tim pointed out that the hydrants that Council Member Wolf pointed to as inoperable was not the case with the 16 or so that were on the list. Safety is a concern and a priority, but most of the hydrants per fire Chief Macemore would flow water in most cases, but may leak or have steamer caps that are stuck. Tim asked fire Chief Macemore what was the top insurance rating that a volunteer fire department could have. Macemore replied, that the highest rating was a five. Tim then asked, what was Arlington's VFD rating? Chief Macemore replied, the department has a five insurance rating. Tim also pointed out the cost of the hydrants estimate at \$1695 and the valves estimate at \$700 which are needed to be put in at the same time along with labor cost. Loss of water and the huge areas that would have to be cutoff with replacement of several of these hydrants is an important fact to consider when repairing fire hydrants.

No action taken. Hydrants will be discussed at our first budget retreat.

TOURISM AUTHORITY: STATUTORY COMPLIANCE REVIEW

Council Member Wolfe wants the law known and obeyed. The website link is for your review. This law was established to process taxes generated at 6%. (Session Law 2002-95, House Bill 1620)

<http://www.ncleg.net/Ses.../2001/Bills/House/PDF/H1620v4.pdf>

- The Authority shall promote travel and tourism in town, sponsor tourist related events and activities in town, and finance tourist related projects in town.
- The Authority shall report quarterly to the Jonesville Board on its receipts and expenditures. They have a quarter of a million dollars to spend.
- The Authority is holding much more than the recommended 8% per the law for distribution of tax monies collected.
- The Authority spends most of the funds outside the Town of Jonesville.
- The Authority is in violation of state laws governing the conduct of boards handling tax revenues which includes approximately \$250,000 in tax money generated by visitors staying in local hotels.
- The Authority needs to understand the Sunshine laws which are state and federal statutes requiring government meeting notices and that decisions and records are to be made available to the public.

Others spoke on behalf of the TDA; Deanna Lundy, Chip Mason, Regina Adkins, Debra Clark and Council Member Anita Darnell.

- It's the events outside of Jonesville that draws the tourists here (wine festivals, ball tournaments, Merle Fest etc.), so that the tax can even be collected. Jonesville is a stopover town for most travelers heading North and South. Most of our hotel guests are single night stays unless there in the area working or an event.
- I do agree we would likely still get the travelers headed north and south due to our convenient location next to I-77. People coming to events are often referred to this area by event promoters/planners. We are a small town, depending on what map a potential visitor looks at they may not even see Jonesville listed. These promoters provide us with a service, referring hotels in this town, allowing us to collect thousands in occupancy taxes. The keyword here is "recommended". Honestly, I'm glad to know that the TDA does not grant money to every person that asks. They choose to spend their funds wisely distributing the money to whom and what will actually draw people here.
- All TDA meetings to my knowledge have always been announced and open for the public to attend.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

The departmental reports are included in your agenda packet. The Council will need to make a motion to approve the monthly financial report.

Council Member Wolfe made the motion to approve January financial reports and Council Member Wall, seconded the motion, passed unanimous 4-0.

With no pending business to discuss Council Member Green made the motion to adjourn and Council Member Darnell, seconded the motion, passed unanimous 4-0.

Gene Pardue, Mayor

Lynn Trivette, CMC, NCCMC